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Telephones: Bell, 301; Ind., 302.

915-916 Boston Block, Salt Lake City, Utah.

J. T. Goodwin, Mgr. I. S. Gillham, Bus. Mgr.

G. C. GOODWIN

Editor

Why?

A NEWSPAPER is published in this city, apparently for the same purpose that fly-blisters are used by some medical practitioners. Its constituent parts are poison, it is not pretty to look at; it contains no nourishment; it has no healing properties; it is simply an irritant.

Apropos of the efforts being made to induce strangers to come to Utah and make homes, we ventured to express the belief that people would not come when told that unless baptized into the dominant church and surrendering full fealty to its rule, they could hope for no preferment for themselves or their children.

To this the advertising sheet referred to above asks, "Why tell them?" The answers are more than one:

1. Because it is true.
2. Because if it were not so, no effort would be needed to attract settlers. They would gladly come.
3. Because to gain statehood the crafty chiefs of this creed promised that the old rule of servitude should be abandoned forever.
4. Because there are some Mormon and some sycophantical gentiles, men and newspapers, who lie continually about conditions here.
5. Because it is a crime close akin to treason for any organization in this country to assume that it was a divine right to establish a hostile political rule here and deride the Constitution and laws of this Nation and State. And every man who subscribes to that rule, or panders to those rulers should be disfranchised for the reason that Christ gave, that "No man can serve two masters," and for the manifest reason that no man can give fealty to two political governments at the same time.
6. Because in the future we do not want the United States to become a second Portugal or Persia, but to continue a symbol to the nations of a world disenthralled.

Writing History

IT was Max Nordau, we believe, who said that no man can write history because no man can know what passed in the minds of the actors.

That is at least half true. No three men can watch a dog fight and then give accounts of it which are alike. That shows how imperfect the human vision is. In the same way, no man was ever robbed by two hold-ups who could describe them, save that one was tall and fair, the other small and dark.

Before stenography became one of the world's necessities, two lawyers would wrangle for an hour over what a witness that had just left the stand had testified to. That only showed how imperfect is the human ear. There are plenty of evidences that all our senses are imperfect. There has to be more than five senses at the command of the historian.

A man goes home to dinner. He looks and acts the same as usual, but after dinner his wife, out of hearing of others, says low to him: "What is it, John, that is troubling you tonight?"

Two editors read the speeches of a dozen senators daily for years, but never meet any of them. The news comes some morning that one of them is dead. Each editor publishes his impression of the dead senator for the next day's paper. They are not at all alike. One gives the record of the dead man's work; the other, a clear analysis of the dead man's character. One tells what the dead man did and said in life, the other what the man was thinking while he talked, and sometimes is so correct that in due time a letter comes from a near relative of the dead man, thanking him and saying: "His family never knew that the Senator had any close acquaintance with anyone in your city." Some men can never write correct history because they have but five senses and do not half use them. And then it is very hard to write correct history because the men whose histories are written, so often contradict themselves. Would a trusted secretary write the same history of his employer that his valet would?

Take the case of General Grant. Either of a thousand men might write a glowing story of his life, but how much of Grant would be in it? We mean the real Grant. But there were incidents in Grant's life worth all the rest in estimating his character. One was after Shiloh when he was virtually shorn of his command and when he was asked what he would do if his enemies finally prevailed against him. His instant reply was: "There is plenty of room in the ranks." He had thought it all out. He was going to serve his country, come what might.

The second was when he was writing the terms of surrender at Appomattox. Seeing that surrender was inevitable, General Lee had put on a new uniform and buckled on the \$10,000 sword that the ladies of Richmond had presented him with.

Glancing up from his writing Grant saw the superb hilt of the sword in its scabbard. Then after a moment's thought, he resumed his writing and this is what he wrote: "Officers will retain their side arms, and mounted officers and soldiers will retain their horses."

Reading it, he remarked that "the soldiers will need their horses in the planting of their crops."

The third incident was when his surgeons told him the nature of his disease and about how long he could live.

It was just after the great Grant and Ward failure, which had wiped out his little fortune. His wife and children would have no inheritance. He called his secretary and, amid his sufferings, bidding death, which was at his door, wait, he dictated that wonderful book, which was at once a vindication of his literary ability and a sure inheritance to those he loved.

The character shining out from those three incidents interwoven with his actual achievements

would be history. Leave that out, and the most brilliant writer might give an account of his career; but it would be but a naked body—the soul of Grant would not shine out through it. Historians are plenty that can give the lines of history; that which is seen between the lines is what counts.

Dealing With Criminals

PASTOR RUSSELL, when here, declared that in his belief the world was growing worse, that except for the increased facilities for arresting criminals utter lawlessness would prevail.

That emphasises what we have often claimed, that when a man is convicted of a deliberate felony, he has forfeited his rights as a free man; that a brief sentence in the penitentiary does not change his nature and that such a man, instead of being clothed and boarded at the state's expense, and permitted to acquire proficiency as an outlaw, and helping other men less culpable than himself to acquire new accomplishments in crime; should be shipped to a penal colony; given sufficient means to enable him to support himself; guarded so that he cannot get away, and then rated as are the dead.

Such an arrangement would deter many a man from committing a meditated crime; it would prevent a convicted man from giving less guilty men a post graduate course in crime. Then there is the practice in criminal courts. A thousand technicalities should be brushed aside, and a convicted man should at once begin his term of punishment. Naturally bad men are but a small minority. If attended to right, that minority would soon grow less.

A Drifting Country

A WRITER in World's Work says: "The agricultural situation contains an element of weakness. The price of land has been greatly advanced in the last few years, in many places fully capitalizing the returns from dollar wheat and ten-dollar hogs." Further the writer says that many men not trained farmers have bought the lands and are indebted for large portions of the purchase price, and adds: "The small equities of the owners will readily yield to any decline in the prices of products or to reduced production."

That is all clear, and when that time comes, what will happen to business generally? All thoughtful newspaper readers must have noticed especially since the panic of 1907, what a barometer the farms of the country have become to the financial interests. In the autumn trade will surely revive because the crop being harvested is so immense. In the spring, the growing crops are what are hoped for. But should they fail some year, what then? Of course, the farmers in debt would lose their farms, but how would it be in the cities if the annual reinforcement of money from the farmers' crops should fail? The country as a whole has saved nothing from the wonderful bounties produced in the last dozen years. The fiction of a great balance of trade in our favor is paraded every year.

But what becomes of it? It goes to pay interest and dividends abroad; to pay fees and freights to foreign ship-owners, and the bills of American tourists in foreign countries. Other countries struggle for foreign trade and to keep